

Minutes of the Solid Waste Committee

January 12, 2007

Present: Susan Waite, Recycling Coordinator; Guilford Mooring, Superintendent of Public Works; Pat Church, Chair; Clare Bertrand, Lucy McMurrer, Harvey Allen, Meg Vickery.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and accepted with minor changes.

Updates:

Susan reported that we were awarded the grant of \$3200.00 from the MRF. This will go towards purchasing recycling lids and signage for downtown streetscape and will also pay for recycling container ads and stickers to be awarded to businesses that recycle.

Susan also reported that the composting bins have been removed from Fort River and Crocker Farm schools. While the children will continue to compost in those schools, the Town will pick up and weigh the compost bins in order to give us a better sense of any financial incentives we can attach to the program. Wildwood and Marks Meadow will get smaller dumpsters to be emptied once a week. Susan will ask Waste Management if they would pay for compostable bags at the High School.

Susan reported that 39 tons of leaves were picked up by the town.

Susan reported on a Municipal Recycling workshop she attended where she learned about the following:

- 1) that Mass Recycle and DEP is starting a paper recovery campaign to capture the huge amount of paper not currently recycled in MA. Public education (via professional ad agency and MA celebs) will be a key piece of the campaign.
- 2) Public Space recycling, how it has worked on the Boston Common
- 3) An inspection by the DEP found that Westfield State and other organizations were not recycling adequately.
- 4) There is an organization that sponsors a shredding event for residents, where they visit a town on a specified date and will shred old papers.
- 5) She got the idea for a newspaper insert with an A to Z info sheet about recycling. With a bit of advertising support this would be effective in the *Bulletin* and *The Collegian*. The Committee would like to pursue this opportunity.
- 6) An organization called the Paper Retrievers leaves a dumpster at a school, the school collects paper and the organization gives the school a check for selling their paper.
- 7) Multi-lingual publicity and advertising. Susan heard about the success of having session in multi-family units with translators so the word gets out in several different languages.

Comprehensive Planning Committee Pat reported that she was asked if any member was interested in joining this committee. Since the first meeting is in five days, she volunteered to go along and represent us.

Name Change: Lucy asked if there had been some move to change the name of the committee, citing examples of people who were somewhat put off by the name of the committee as is. New ideas were suggested such as:

- 1) Waste Management and Recycling Committee
- 2) Recycling and Waste Management Committee
- 3) Recycling and Refuse Reduction Committee, The Three Rs
- 4) Recycling and Trash Management Committee
- 5) Waste and Recycling Committee
- 6) Refuse and Recycling Committee
- 7) Recycling and Refuse Committee

We will decide on a new name at the next meeting

Business Recycling: Clare reported that Copy Cat printers does recycle their paper and they share a dumpster with the Sub. Meg reported that the Jeffrey Amherst Bookstore is recycling their cardboard but would be interested in recycling their paper. Meg will go to Hastings and find out what they do and if the bookstore could work with them somehow. Harvey went to Hess gas station and discovered that they recycle their cardboard and paper. He also went to Bank of America on College Street where they too recycle their shredded paper. The problem remains of proving the financial benefits of recycling. Clare will visit Hair by Harlow building, Pat will go to People's Bank, Harvey will check out the Yiddish Bookstore and find out the name of the shredding company used by bank of America. The goal is to see that every store in town receives a sticker noting that they recycle.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 pm. The next meeting will be February 8th, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Meg Vickery
Clerk pro tem